

## CLAIMS:

1. A family of complex systems having a shared family architecture and wherein

- a component framework supports participating plug-in components
- individual plug-in components provides one or more services and
- the component framework defines roles providing one or more common interfaces for

5 services of several plug-in components.

2. A complex system being a member of the family as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the component framework includes an inventory function for assessing available services in the participating plug-in components.

3. A complex system as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the inventory function is arranged for initializing the services.

4. A complex system as Claimed in Claim 2 wherein the inventory function is arranged to asses available services at initialization of the system or during run-time of the system.

5. A complex system as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the inventory function is arranged to maintain a list of the available services.

6. A family of complex systems as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the family members are medical diagnostic systems, in particular x-ray examination apparatus.

7. A complex system, in particular an x-ray examination apparatus having software architecture and wherein

- a component framework supports participating plug-in components
- individual plug-in components provides one or more services and
- the component framework defines roles provides one or more common interfaces for services of several plug-in components.